

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of a brief telephone interview initiated by the Examiner.

The Examiner indicated that if a claim were presented composed of the text of claim 1 together with the first paragraph of claim 3, such claim would be allowable.

To that end, this preliminary amendment is offered. In this preliminary amendment, new claim 7 is the text of claim 1 together with the first paragraph of claim 3. New claim 8 is the balance of claim 3. New claim 9 is based upon the language of claim 2.

Claims 1-6 remain pending.

It is hoped that in the first Office Action (not yet mailed), claims 7-9 may be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


Carl Oppedahl
PTO Reg. No. 32,746
Oppedahl & Larson LLP
P O Box 5068
Dillon, CO 80435-5068
telephone 970-468-6600